

VILLA TROOPS WITHDRAWING RAPIDLY TOWARDS THE NORTH

Americans Returning from the South Report Few Troops Below Torreon; Durango Is Suffering For Food and Fears a Famine; Americans in the Tampico Oil District Are Reported as in a Bad Way.

AN American who arrived here from Zacatecas Thursday, states that there are no large forces of Villistas anywhere along the railroad south of Torreon and that a large number of troops have been withdrawn to Torreon in the last few days. He states that the authorities in eastern Durango, fearing a famine, are making every effort to prevent the exportation of foodstuffs from the state, thus leaving Torreon to rely on railroad communication for supplies. Though the city is not yet short of food, the American says that any interruption in railroad traffic north would cause a serious shortage. He reports a clash between an isolated band of Carrancistas and a force from Torreon at a point west of Perdon, in which the Carrancistas were defeated. This occurred on June 14 and about 30 prisoners were brought to Torreon.

Both Claim Victory.

Representatives of both Mexican factions here continue to claim that their side holds the oil fields. Though Gen. Obregon has not yet made a formal report to Carranza regarding the fighting around Aguascalientes, Carrancistas continue to refer to the occupation of the city as an accomplished fact. Villistas, on the other hand, state that rail and wire communication with Aguascalientes is still open and that the Carrancistas have been twice repulsed in attacks a short distance south of the city. Even this statement, however, is an admission that Gen. Obregon has scored a considerable advance from Lagos de Moreno, where Villa established his base following the loss of Leon.

Americans in Danger.

Mail advices from Tampico state that Americans located in the oil fields west of the city are in a precarious condition. The railroad to the west is held by Villistas but has been cut near San Luis Potosi, thus preventing the sending of supplies to that city. Supplies cannot be brought through the lines from Tampico and even the oil tanks lying on the Panuco river are being fired upon. The latter states that there are about 200 Americans in the district west of Tampico.

Denial is made by Juan Amador, sub-secretary of government, of the reported execution at Veracruz of Carrancistas, who were one of the three commissioners that conducted the Benton investigation. It was stated by Villistas that Carrancistas had been executed for being in communication with Zapata officials. Amador, who recently returned from Veracruz states that Carrancistas are attached to the staff of Gen. Pablo Gonzalez and is now with that leader near Mexico City.

The Carrancistas have practically drawn a ring about Mexico City, according to Carranza advices. All of the important towns in the federal district have been taken and the Carrancistas are to be given a chance to evacuate rather than subject the city to a bombardment. Gen. Pablo Gonzalez, commander of the Carrancista forces, is reported to have a very large artillery equipment, a number of the big guns captured by Obregon from Villa at Oaxaca, Tlaxcala, Silao and Leon having been repaired at Veracruz and sent to Gonzalez. He is also receiving considerable numbers of recruits from the drill camps at Veracruz.

West Coast Campaign.

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ANGELES WANTS TO SEE WILSON

Would Lay Before American President His Ideas For Pacification of Mexico.

Boston, Mass., June 25.—Gen. Felipe Angeles, who is here to see his family, is rather anxious to have a talk with president Wilson and place before him certain ideas regarding the pacification of Mexico.

"I will point for president Wilson a true picture of affairs in my country as they are, and if I am honored with a private audience," he said, "I shall not, however, approach him as the representative of any faction, but only as one who has seen and knows and ardently hopes for better things."

"I am not sure that he can receive me in any private capacity, but I shall return to Mexico by way of Washington and if opportunity affords, I shall gladly avail myself of it."

"Continued Fighting a Calamity." "Mexicans as a whole have come to regard the continued fighting as a calamity. The country is disorganized. Communications are interrupted. Business is demoralized. It will take us some time to recover from the ravages of the past few years, but we can recover under a wise and patriotic administration capable of maintaining order and as a nation we shall go forward, stronger and better than ever."

"The Revolution is Dead." "The ideal for which we fought—the overthrow of special privileges and establishment of political and civil freedom has been accomplished. It is now a question only of men. Personal ambition and jealousy as exhibited by Carranza only stand in the way of peace and prosperity. Gen. Villa is prepared to eliminate himself. Carranza must do likewise."

"I have no exact plan but I have certain ideas for the restoration of the country and these I hope to lay before president Wilson. I shall not discuss them except with him. It is no secret, however, that I am in favor of a provisional president who has not been allied with any faction. He must not be a military man. We have had enough of military presidents. I include myself among those who are not eligible. I have no ambition for the presidency, nor has Gen. Villa."

"Suggests Business Man." "For provisional president pending a popular election, I want some man who is a revolutionist in principle but not a military leader. A strong business man would do. The Villa faction will negotiate with Carranza, though he is regarded as a rebel, and with the other factions and I believe that with a proper spirit shown we can agree upon some satisfactory plan. Unless some such agreement is reached we must fight on until all sides are exhausted."

"Intervention With Money." "Intervention in the sense of any army of invasion would never be undertaken by Mexico as in their interest, no matter how well intentioned, continued Gen. Angeles. "But," he added, "intervention may take other forms that appear more friendly. There is the moral force of the United States, the facilitating of the movement across the border of munitions of war, and lastly, financial aid. Intervention along these lines would be acceptable to the great majority of Mexicans who are interested in the restoration of their government country."

"Death Comes Suddenly TO MRS. ELIZABETH BLAIR." Death came suddenly Thursday night to Mrs. Elizabeth Blair at her home, 991 Wyoming street. Mrs. Blair was 35 years of age and the wife of C. Blair, an employee of the El Paso & Southwestern Railway company. She was a native of Illinois and had been in Texas for five years, though in El Paso for but a little over a year. She is survived by her husband and two children, and several relatives in Illinois.

The funeral will be under the charge of Nagley & Kaster, but complete arrangements have not yet been made as it is expected that some of her relatives from the east will come here for the services.

COST REVIEW MEETINGS OPEN

Committee Holds First Session and Adjourns Until Monday Morning.

Meetings of the cost review board of the Rio Grande valley irrigation project, which embraces the Elephant Butte dam and its irrigation system, will be open to the public and there will be no effort to suppress any information which may come before the board as evidence. This was the informal and unanimous decision of the board members when they met Friday morning in the chamber of commerce to begin the work of estimating the cost of the project since its inception 19 years ago.

No evidence was submitted Friday morning. After an informal preparatory discussion, adjournment was taken until Monday morning at 11 o'clock. Mr. Lawson, project engineer at El Paso; Prof. T. U. Taylor, dean of the engineering department of the Texas university, and L. W. Clapp, president of the Elephant Butte Water Users' association, compose the board. Prof. Taylor and Mr. Lawson will leave El Paso this afternoon for a visit to the big dam, which the professor has never seen.

"Be Some Clashes." Although the first meeting was smooth and peaceful, indications are that there will be some excitement hereafter. A session is expected, on account of the controversy now in progress between the reclamation service and the El Paso valley farmers and the payment of certain charges which the government seeks to make on the consumers for irrigation facilities. Attorneys for the New Mexico farmers and the El Paso valley water consumers were present at Friday morning's session.

Practically the only business transacted was the reading of a letter to chairman Taylor from the reclamation commission, in which the commissioners asked to be put on record as favoring open meetings of the board. The letter said that it had been reported informally to the reclamation service that board meetings have been held secretly, the charges carrying with it the implication that it was done for the purpose of suppressing information.

"Supplies Public Hearings." "Without more the communication, 'going into the truth of the report or desiring to interfere with the discretion of the board as to holding private meetings whenever it is deemed necessary, the reclamation service wants to go on record as favoring holding meetings open to any visitor, so long as he is not unruly.'"

"The purpose of the cost review is to afford the men who are to pay the bills an opportunity to scrutinize all items and clear up all misunderstandings that may exist. It is also suggested that after the board of review hears all the evidence and arguments, that in addition to its findings, it recommend: (a) What action may be taken to afford proper and necessary relief without further legislation. (b) What further legislation is necessary to accomplish needed and equitable relief."

"Letter Favorably Received." The letter was signed by A. F. Davis, chairman of the reclamation commission, and Prof. Taylor ordered that it be read into the minutes of the meeting. Its tone created favorable comment from the board members and water users present.

Present at the session were H. R. Holt and Richard Burges, attorneys for the Elephant Butte and El Paso Valley Water Users' association; Porter W. Dent, legal adviser to the reclamation service; Terrell Bartlett, consulting engineer for the water users; T. J. Guilfoyle, special auditor of the accounts of the dam and irrigation project; J. B. McChesney and A. M. Mood, board reporters; Prof. Taylor, L. M. Lawson and L. W. Clapp.

"CUTS OUT MUFFLER; ARRESTED." Charged with cutting out the muffler on his auto, Herbert Dalton was arrested Friday afternoon by motorcycle policeman Richard Evans. N. C. Carson was also arrested on a charge of neglecting to keep the tail lights of his auto burning Thursday night.

T. W. REYNOLDS DIES FROM SHOT

Postal Official, in Ill Health For Months, Shoots Self Under the Heart.

Thomas W. Reynolds, formerly night manager of the Postal Telegraph company, shot himself in the left breast, directly under the heart, Thursday night at his room in a local hotel and died at 5 o'clock Friday morning from the effects of the bullet wound.

Mr. Reynolds had been in ill health for several months and his friends believe that his health had affected him since he was known to have been brooding over his condition for several weeks. He was alone at the time of the shooting, which occurred about 7 o'clock in the evening and he was not found until more than an hour later. He was hurried to the hospital where L. G. Witherspoon was called and he was given emergency treatment. But, because of his weakened condition, he was unable to withstand the shock and loss of blood and his death followed early Friday morning.

"Was Well Known." Tom Reynolds was one of the best known telegraph operators and officials in El Paso. He came here in 1911 to work for the Western Union Telegraph company and later went to the Postal Telegraph company where he was promoted to be the night chief operator and night manager. He was well known in the city and his death was a great loss to the telegraph office.

"Lost His Fortune." Before coming to El Paso he was a cotton broker in New Orleans and was said to have been wealthy at one time, but lost his fortune in the panic of 1907. His wife died about the same time and, broken in spirit, he came west to make a new start. He was in the employ of the Postal Telegraph company until March 1914, although he was on sick leave during the last six months of this time because of ill health. He was also employed at the time of his death in the Postal Telegraph company, having had much experience in handling press copy and was always making an extra effort to be accommodating to the patrons of the telegraph office.

"Buried Here." Mr. Reynolds was 24 years old. A brief service will be held at the funeral home of McBean, Simmons & Hartford. Employees and officials of the telegraph office in El Paso and a large number of Mr. Reynolds' friends will attend.

"Cement Forms for Silos TO BE LOANED TO FARMERS." Two sets of forms for the building of cement silos will be loaned by the Southwestern Portland Cement company and will be loaned to farmers free of charge. This, it is expected, will result in the building of many silos, as there is now only one set in the valley, and about a dozen farmers have already expressed their intention of building silos as soon as they could secure the forms.

A committee, composed of A. G. Graham, farm demonstrator; Charles R. Stevens and H. D. Camp, called upon S. C. McCurdy superintendent of the plant, Thursday and received assurances that not only would the cement company supply the forms free of charge, but would aid farmers in building silos by extending them time facilities on cement purchases. The forms cost \$750 a set and so far contractors have been unwilling to make a large investment in forms. The action of the cement company will be of material aid in encouraging the building of silos.

"TWO CHARGED WITH 'WHITE SLAVERY'; BOTH ARE HELD." F. C. Keyes and E. R. Strandburg were given a preliminary hearing in the United States commissioner's court Friday on charges of bringing women into the state for immoral purposes. Keyes is alleged to have brought a woman to El Paso from Phoenix, Ariz., and Strandburg to have brought a woman here from Douglas, Ariz. Each was held on a bond of \$1000 which they were unable to give.

GEORGE HAYS ON TRIAL; IS CHARGED WITH MURDER

The preliminary hearing of George Hays, the negro charged with murder in connection with the death of Alonso Cross, another negro, Saturday afternoon, is being held this afternoon in justice J. M. Deaver's court.

Hays was arrested Wednesday afternoon by the police as he crossed the Santa Fe bridge from Juarez.

STANTON STREET HOUSE RAIDED; THREE ARRESTED. In a raid on a house on North Stanton street Thursday night about 10 o'clock, made by the police and detectives, Maria Armendariz, Mrs. Russell and George Cordu were arrested on charges of running a disorderly house. The cases will be heard in the corporation court this afternoon.

FOURTH PRISONER OPENS WRIST WITH BROKEN GLASS

Denied the use of morphine, Lon Cook, an inmate of the city jail, slashed his wrist with a piece of broken glass in his cell shortly before 1 o'clock this afternoon. He was given emergency treatment.

This is the fourth case in which inmates of the jail have cut their wrists during the present week because they were denied the use of drugs.

SOLDIERS ARE CHARGED WITH SELLING MORPHINE. Edward I. Nahrting and Steve King, two soldiers from Fort Bliss, were arrested by the provost guard in the lower part of the city shortly after 10 o'clock Thursday night on a charge of selling morphine.

They were confined in the city jail for the night and turned over to the military authorities Friday morning.

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